

Remarks/Arguments:

Presently, claims 1-18 are pending, with claims 13-17/13 having been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 9-11 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Title as being non-descriptive. Applicants have amended the Title to provide a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicants respectfully request the objection to the Title be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to claim 5 because the terms "bases" and "collectors" are normally used in BJT type of transistors, but no specific types of transistors are recited. Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Fig. 5 and to page 25 of the Specification, which discloses that transistors which are used to operate as diodes include bases, collectors and emitters, and not gates and drains. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the terms "bases" and "collectors" are properly used. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 5.

Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 12, 17/1, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,833,769 to Seppinen et al. ("Seppinen"). Seppinen was filed on March 21, 2003 and issued on December 21, 2004. The present application is based on a Japanese priority document, namely, Japanese Application No. 2002-291632, that was filed on October 3, 2002. The date of the priority document precedes the filing date of Seppinen. Applicants submit that a certified English translation of the priority document is sufficient to overcome this rejection. A certified English translation of the priority document is enclosed. In light of the present submission of the certified English translation of the priority document, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 12, 17/1, and 18.

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The Examiner also rejected claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Seppinen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,509,805 to Ochiai. Claims 4-8 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-8 are allowable over the cited prior art for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-8.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12, 17/1, and 18 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel N. Calder

Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Joseph E. Maenner, Reg. No. 41,964
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/jem/ds

Attachments: English Translation of Japanese
Patent Application No. 2002-291632

Dated: September 9, 2005

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

September 9, 2005

Deborah Spratt

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